

February 13, 2020

The February 13, 2020 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chair Paul Tarlowe, held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Paul Tarlowe, Dawn Smith, Robert Jewell, Jim McMekin and Ruth Panté. Excused were Glenn Todd, Kathy Todd and Marin Martin. Also present was Township Committeeman Glen McGuinness who is the 2020 Environmental Commission liaison.

MINUTES

Mr. Jewell MOVED to accept and approve the minutes of the January 9, 2020 meeting, seconded by Ms. Smith; all in favor with one abstention.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grants

Ms. Smith reported all is in order for the ANJEC Open Space Grant; she currently seeks in-time labor reports from volunteers; the current total is about 43 hours.

ANJEC has sent notice that applications are being accepted for open space grants for this year. Ms. Smith and Ms. Martin have discussed this; \$325 remains for the current grant with part of this budgeted for new reeds for the bee huts; we could expand the number of bee huts in the area. More work needs to be done, this is still a work in progress. Ms. Smith reported a recruitment event March 14 or March 21 at Cafferata Park. Reeds will be purchased with the remaining grant money that will be used for re-installation.

Instead of pursuing a new grant this year, it was suggested to build on this project. However, other projects and opportunities were discussed. Mr. Jewell asked for an explanation of “volunteer hours”, asking if maintenance on the path at the Park could be done. Drainage and erosion were discussed. Mr. Jewell will take photos and prepare a cost estimate. Mr. Jewell offered to donate his time, but the equipment expenses could be covered by applying for a new grant this year.

Mushroom Workshop

Mr. McMekin said this project is on hold at this time.

Pollinator Bees

April 25 will be a pollinator program at the Wattles Center beginning at 11:00 a.m. This is open to the public, information will be distributed via flyers, the township website, the Mansfield Neighborhood Watch Facebook group and by New Jersey Audubon.

Environmental Issues

Reporting for the Land Use Board, Mr. Jewell informed us of memorialization of a resolution for a bulk variance for the burned house in Port Murray. The salvage yard dispute is now in court; this matter was cited by the Zoning Officer.

Mr. Jewell believes the Columbia Too site has been purchased.

Mr. McMekin questioned septic systems, asking if filters are required on all systems or if filters are only used on new installations now. Mr. Jewell said filters will make septic fields last longer.

Mr. Tarlowe will be unable to attend the April meeting. Ms. Smith will be unable to attend the June and August meetings. Ms. Martin will be absent in May.

It was MOVED by Ms. Panté to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Panté